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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

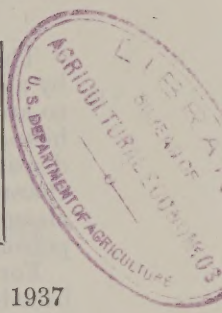
1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - - - - - SOUTHERN REGION

## BETTER RANGE LAND FOR TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA

*"The solution of the range problem can be made an important contribution to the conservation of our natural resources. It can be made a contribution to the rehabilitation of western agriculture.*

*"Finally, and most important, it can be made an important contribution to social and economic security and human welfare."*

—Secretary HENRY A. WALLACE



**I**MPROVEMENT of range land is a special objective of the 1937 AAA conservation program as it has been worked out for the western range area of Texas and Oklahoma.

The grazing capacity of much of the Texas-Oklahoma range land has been sharply reduced by soil erosion, overgrazing, rodents, and noxious plants.

Waste of soil, with the consequent destruction of range land, has become so extensive that conservation of soil resources has become a national problem. The need now is to preserve and restore the productivity of the land upon which the Nation must depend for its existence. These are the reasons why the AAA conservation program operates through a system of payments enabling ranchers to conserve range land on the individual ranches of the country, and why the Federal Government makes funds available for this purpose.

These payments will be made to range-livestock operators in designated counties of western Texas and western Oklahoma, who, in 1937, adopt one or more of the approved range-building practices listed in this leaflet. The payments are calculated on the basis of the estimated average cost of the various operations. They are intended to help defray the expense involved in combating soil erosion and adopting range-improvement practices. The carrying out of this program through the system of payments described in this leaflet is contingent upon appropriation by Congress of the amount authorized for 1937, which is \$500,000,000.

### HOW PAYMENTS ARE CALCULATED

The maximum amount of money that any ranch may earn for carrying out range-building practices is called the range-building allowance. This allowance is calculated by multiplying the established grazing capacity of the ranch by \$1.50.

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The grazing capacity means the number of animal units (an animal unit is one horse, one cow, five sheep, five goats, or the equivalent thereof) which the range land on a ranch will sustain (on a 12-month basis) over a period of years without decreasing the grazing vegetation and without injury to forage, tree growth, or watershed. The grazing capacity of each ranch will be established by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration upon the basis of a report from the county agricultural conservation committee.

### CALCULATING GRAZING CAPACITY

The report on the condition of each ranch, to be made in the field by a county range inspector selected by the county committee, subject to approval by the State committee, will take into consideration the history of the use of the range land; the composition, palatability, and density of vegetative growth; climatic fluctuations; distribution and character of watering facilities; topographic and cultural features; classes of livestock; presence or absence of rodents; the extent of poisonous-plant infestation.

For example, if the grazing capacity of a particular ranch is established at 1,000 animal units (equivalent to 1,000 head of cattle or 5,000 head of sheep), the ranch would be eligible to earn maximum payments totaling \$1,500. However, this amount, or any part of it, would have to be earned by the adoption of range-building practices for which payment would be made under the schedule printed in this leaflet.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

A ranch operator desiring to participate should sign a card requesting the county committee to establish the grazing capacity of his ranch. These cards may be obtained from the county committee or county agent's office. The signing of this card for determination of grazing capacity in no way obligates the operator but he must have one on file with the county committee if he later decides to make application for payments. No payments will be made for practices adopted if the labor or materials are furnished by any Federal or State agency or if the land is owned or controlled by the Federal Government.

### RANGE-BUILDING PRACTICES

A special feature of the program is the payment to be made for deferred grazing, which means withholding from grazing a portion of the ranch during the period from the time vegetation starts growth in the spring until seed has matured in the fall for the purpose of permitting the natural reseeding of range land. This optional feature will work to advantage on ranches where the available range land and the number of livestock are so balanced that the rancher may profitably carry out this practice.

Following is a complete list of practices for which payments will be made, not in excess of the range-building allowance, with the rates and conditions of payment:



Practices and conditions	Rate
<b>Reseeding by deferred grazing.</b> —For withholding twenty-five percent (25%) of the ranch from grazing for a period of 6 months, beginning May 1, 1937. (If grazing is deferred on less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the ranch a proportionate payment will be made.) Payment will not be made for this practice if the operator permits the remainder of the range land on the ranch to be overgrazed to an extent that causes deterioration of such range land.	One-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of the range-building allowance.
<b>Contour listing or furrowing.</b> —For contour listing or furrowing in 1937, furrow channels to be not less than 8 inches in width and 4 inches in depth and not less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart. (Payment will be made on the acreage occupied by the furrows computed on the basis of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in width for each such furrow.)	\$0.70 per acre.
<b>Ridging range land.</b> —For narrow terraces or ridges, on slopes of two percent (2%) or greater, that are at least 6 feet wide from bottom of furrow to bottom of furrow on the opposite side, at least 10 inches in height and on the contour level, at an interval which is specified by the State agricultural conservation committee for the slope.	\$0.10 per 100 linear feet.
<b>Spreader dams.</b> —If in combination with spreader terraces, spreader dams to be constructed in accordance with specifications of the State agricultural committee. (Payment will be made for material moved in building the dam.)	\$0.15 per cubic yard.
<b>Spreader terraces.</b> —If in combination with spreader dams, terraces to be constructed in accordance with specifications of the State agricultural committee.	\$0.40 per 100 linear feet.
<b>Earthen tanks and reservoirs.</b> —For constructing ponds or reservoirs with adequate spillways. (Payment will be made for material excavated and material used for fill not excavated on the site of the tank or reservoir.)	\$0.15 per cubic yard.
<b>Range fences.</b> —For the construction of range fences, where necessary in order to carry out other phases of the 1937 range conservation program. (Payment will be made for fence when constructed of 3 or more wires, with posts not more than 20 feet apart, with corner posts well braced and with wires tightly stretched.)	\$0.30 per rod.
<b>Fire guards.</b> —For the establishment of fire guards, not less than 4 feet in width, by plowing furrows or otherwise exposing the mineral soil.	\$0.03 per 100 linear feet.
<b>Rodent eradication:</b> <sup>1</sup>	
(a) For the eradication of prairie dogs-----	\$0.07 $\frac{1}{2}$ per infested acre.
(b) For the eradication of kangaroo rats-----	\$0.05 per infested acre.
<b>Rescuing range land from prickly pear and cactus:</b> <sup>1</sup>	
(a) Light infestation-----	\$0.50 per acre.
(b) Medium infestation-----	\$0.75 per acre.
(c) Heavy infestation-----	\$1.00 per acre.

For footnote see next page.

Practices and conditions	Rate
<b>Rescuing range land from mesquite: <sup>1</sup></b>	
(a) Light infestation.....	\$0.50 per acre.
(b) Medium infestation.....	\$1.00 per acre.
(c) Heavy infestation.....	\$2.00 per acre.
<b>Rescuing range land from cedar: <sup>1</sup></b>	
(a) Light infestation.....	\$0.75 per acre.
(b) Medium infestation.....	\$1.00 per acre.
(c) Heavy infestation.....	\$1.50 per acre.
<b>Rescuing range land from lechuguilla: <sup>1</sup></b>	
For heavy infestation.....	\$0.50 per acre.

<sup>1</sup> The degree of infestation of range-destroying plants, and rodents on range land, shall be determined by the county committee, based upon the report of the range inspector.

### GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR RANGE-BUILDING PAYMENTS

The estimated administrative expenses incurred in the field in carrying out the 1937 program will be deducted on a pro-rata basis from payments due under the 1937 program.

No payment will be made for any range-building practice unless the county committee, upon the basis of an examination of the ranch by the range inspector, as requested by the ranch operator, has determined that the practice is in accordance with the objectives of the program.

No payment will be made for carrying out range-building practices unless they are carried out according to the generally accepted standards of good ranching. In case such practices require materials, no payment will be made unless the materials are of the kinds and qualities customarily used.

No payment will be made to any owner who has for 1937 made any change from the 1936 leasing agreements of such land for the purpose of, or which would have the effect of, diverting to such owner any payment to which any lessee would be entitled if the 1936 leasing arrangement were in effect for 1937.

### APPLICATION FOR PAYMENTS

Payments will be made only upon applications filed on or before a date established by the State committee with the approval of the Director of the Southern Division. Each application for payment must be filed with the county committee of the county in which the ranch (or the major portion thereof) is located.

An application for payment may be made only by the ranch operator or operators.

Payment under the application will be made only to a ranch operator, or to each ranch operator of a group of two or more operators, *provided* that each signifies in the application for payment the percentage of the total payment under the application for payment due him.

### APPEALS

Any ranch operator who has reason to believe that any recommendation of his county committee concerning his ranch is not correct or equitable may request the county committee to reconsider its recommendation. If the operator fails to agree with the final recommendation of the county committee, the operator may appeal to the State committee.